



Transportation Committee Public Hearing

February 13, 2021

SB 261 – An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Motor Vehicles

Good afternoon, my name is Zak Leavy and I serve as a legislative and political coordinator for AFSCME Council 4, a union representing over 30,000 public and private employees across Connecticut. We also represent rank and file employees in the Department of Motor Vehicles who would be negatively impacted by Section 13 of this proposed bill.

Section 13 of SB 261, An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Motor Vehicles, would broadly expand the Commissioner's ability to enter into agreements with private contractors and municipalities. This would allow them to enter into these agreements without going through the legislature or contracting standards board. Council 4 strongly rejects privatizing the work being performed by our members in the DMV.

The department was impacted in recent years due to privatizing the computer system with 3M rather than using state employees. If this work had been completed and maintained by state employees it could have helped avoid longer wait times.

The DMV is also a significant revenue driver for Connecticut as the Office of Fiscal Analysis has reported that it brings in over \$400 million in revenue while costing around \$66 million. Further privatization in the department will impact this revenue stream during a time when we need to preserve as much revenue as possible. Council 4 strongly urges the committee to remove this section of the bill and continue allowing DMV services to be provided by public employees.

Thank you and I'll be happy to answer any questions.